

TRANSMITTAL SLIP

TO:

STAT

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SECRET

14 March 1979

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM

NOTE FOR: AD/TAO
D/DCI/CT

STAT

TO: (Officer designation, room
building)

SUBJECT: Omnibus Intelligence Community
Reorganization Act of 1979

How from whom
each comment.)

1. AD/TAO

2. D/DCI/CT

3. D/CLLO

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From the standpoint of TAO's responsibilities, the provisions of this Act are a useful reminder that our efforts to evaluate Community collection program and system utilities, by discipline and across disciplines, and to establish data bases to support this effort, will inevitably have two equally important purposes: to help the DCI and Community agencies make sound collection program decisions when programs are first considered and during their course, and to justify collection programs and systems to Congressional committees.

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Attachment:
Memo to D/CLLO,
same subject

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INFORMATION

12.

13.

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15.

DCI/CT-1459

14 March 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Community Legislative & Liaison Offices

VIA: Deputy to the DCI for Collection Tasking
Acting Director, Tasking Architecture Office

FROM:
Acting Chief, Policy Division, TAO

STAT

SUBJECT: "Omnibus Intelligence Community Reorganization
and Reform Act of 1979"

1. This Act calls for the elimination of clandestine HUMINT collection and covert action, prohibits intelligence relationships for remuneration with U.S. journalists or any U.S. media organization, provides for strict and extensive oversight by Congress of all U.S. intelligence collection activities, and requires a multi-agency base of responsibility for the initiation of most intelligence collection activities. Its inevitable result would be less comprehensive, less accurate, and less timely intelligence support to U.S. Government policy decisions and planning activities.

2. The Act would substantially revise the way intelligence collection programs are planned, approved, and reviewed. In effect, all collection activity proposals would have to be approved and then reviewed annually by a Foreign Activities Committee (FAC) chaired by the Secretary of State. The DCI would be a member and one of his principal roles would be to provide guidance to each national intelligence agency that used the FAC mechanism. The agencies would sorely need this guidance because they would have to provide written assessments of the unique value of each collection action they proposed--something they would not be in a position to do, without the help of the DCI's resident Intelligence Community Staff. It may be that this is exactly how the framers of the Act want the system to work. And so the DCI would wind up with a very central role even though he would not chair the FAC.

3. Priorities would be set by the DCI and a committee of the National Security Council to be known as the Committee on Foreign Intelligence, which he would chair. (Other members: State, Defense, CIA, OMB, IRRA, NSA, and the President's National Security Advisor.) In practice, this probably would mean little change from current procedures.

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4. The DCI would continue to be responsible for establishing and managing the intelligence requirements process and evaluating the adequacy and focus of collection capabilities and tasking. He would in addition be specifically charged with conducting a comprehensive inquiry into the causes of any intelligence failure (including inadequate intelligence collection, inadequate directives for intelligence collection, analytical bias, etc.), and reporting the results of such inquiry to the President and the appropriate Committees of Congress. This duty is drafted in a way (page 13) that suggests it would be an active account.

5. A final point, the Act authorizes the Intelligence Research and Analysis Agency to direct NSA and NRO to carry out particular collection activities. It also authorizes NSA to collect intelligence from foreign communications. No agency is authorized to "process" collected information, although the IRAA and service intelligence agencies are authorized to do "analysis." This may have been deliberate, to maintain separation between collection and analysis responsibilities, or it may have been an oversight.

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Distribution (Memo to D/CLLO): DCI/CT 79-1459:

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DCI/CTS/TAO/PI [REDACTED] 13 Mar 79
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